

# **281--Iowa Administrative Code**

## **Chapter 12**

**Rule Interpretation Regulatory Guidance  
for  
Meeting Accreditation Standards for  
School Districts and Accredited  
Nonpublic Schools**

**Bureau of Administration and  
School Improvement Services**

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# What is the difference between regulatory and non-regulatory guidance?

## Regulatory

- Defines legal minimums
- Clarifies interpretation of legal expectations
- Established the compliance “bar”

## Non-Regulatory

- Describes actions above minimum legal expectations
- Represents best practices in all areas



# Regulatory Guidance-- Purposes



- To provide **consistent** interpretation for non-compliance determinations.
- To provide **clear** interpretation for non-compliance determinations.





# **Regulatory Guidance-- Purposes**



- **To ensure that all schools/school districts are meeting accreditation standards**
- **To provide only compliance information--not to be construed as best practices**





# Document Guidance



- **“Schools”** means accredited nonpublic schools.



- **“School districts”** means public school districts.





# Document Guidance



- *Applies only to school districts* means **NOT** accredited nonpublic schools
- Not every section of Chapter 12 is included.





# Locally Determined



- Whenever the phrase *locally determined* appears, the issue of “quality” for a particular requirement is set by the school.
- Schools are encouraged to strive for the highest quality.





# Citation



- **Column #1 contains the legal citation for each accreditation requirement**
- **281 stands for “education.”**
- **IAC stands for “Iowa Administrative Code”--School Rules of Iowa**







# Topic



- **Column #2 contains the general area of the accreditation requirement.**
- **Some rule sections have multiple topics--the topics are listed for user convenience.**





# Rule

- **Column #3 contains exact rule language.**
- **Any omission in rule language is indicated by an ellipses (. . .)**
- **Access the actual rule at this web  
site:<http://www.state.ia.us/education/legis/iac28112.pdf>**



# **Rule Interpretation**



- **Column #4 contains language that is intended to clarify rule or provide more information.**
- **Column #4 can reflect “frequently asked questions” about a requirement.**
- **Column #4 does not contain every possible circumstance.**





# **Noncompliance**



- **Column #5 contains the ways in which a school or school district may “not meet” the minimum legal expectations for accreditation in Iowa.**
- **Column #5 can be used as a self-assessment to ensure that general accreditation standards are met.**



# Document Function-- Reminder



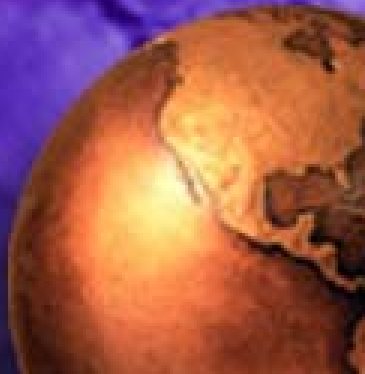

## IS

- This regulatory guidance is intended ONLY to make clear legal expectations for minimum accreditation standards.



## IS NOT

- This document is NOT guidance for better/best practices.



**Goal**  
**100% of Iowa schools**  
**meet every general**  
**accreditation standard in**  
**Chapter 12**